

Chairman Waukau's Notes September 2002

Poso My Fellow Menominees:

The final fiscal year budget for the coming year was approved at the September 19 meeting and the cuts were very deep. Programs that were zeroed out were Treaty Rights, Communications, the annual Powwow, the Veteran's Powwow, and the biggie was the per capita payment to tribal members. The Tribe made the difficult decision to temporarily close the Day Care and Early Head Start at the Maehnowesekiyah site. After five hours of public hearings on the budgets the Legislature passed the FY 03 by a vote of 6 for 0 opposed 2 absent. Every program in the tribal structure took a cut. As a result we have laid off 24 tribal employees. The tribal human resource department is doing everything they can to assist these laid off employees find other positions within the Tribal structure. The Tribe does not anticipate any more cuts this fiscal year.

Along with other community members, I participated in the high school's Remembering 9/11 activities. I received some very nice letters from members of this year's Junior class. Joel Fish had an interesting comment, "I told my friends, now everyone comes together as one after someone blows up half the world. If you ask me, it should have been this way in the first place." I agree with Joel. It should not take a catastrophe to bring the American people together.

I enjoyed the High School Homecoming activities last week. Great weather, great parade, and a great game as we whopped up on Oneida in what the high schoolers call the Fry Bread Bowl. Kevin Penass gave us all a thrill when he ran a punt back for a touchdown. I think we all have picked up enough toilet paper for this year.

Community meetings were scheduled for the first week in October. This is the third set of community meeting for this administrative year. As per constitution we will schedule our forth set of meetings in January of 2003. Unfortunately, we don't seem to be getting a great deal of attendance at these meetings. The meetings are usually scheduled for 5:00 throughout the various communities.

Apesanahkwat resigned from the Legislature in protest over the elimination of the Treaty Rights/Mining Impacts office. As much as the Tribe would like to keep a lobby presence as the permit process continues, we can not afford to do so. The Environmental Services department will track the permit process and keep the Legislature informed if there is an imminent permitting for the mine. Currently the Crandon Mine is up for sale. We will decide at the October 3rd meeting if we will fill his position.

In a check with the Election Office eleven Menominees have taken out papers for MTL and two for Police Chief. Reelected to the MTE Board of Directors were Jeri Grignon and Ben Kaquatosh. New board MTE members are Joey Besaw and Linda Caldwell. The Primary election for the Tribal election is November 13 & 14.

Sincerely,

Lisa Waukau
Honorable Tribal Chairman